

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 218661
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:D E ZWEIFEL:MM

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

H - D J BENNET.JR.

S/S :TGMARTIN

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

L/PM - MR. MICHEL (SUBS)

EUR - MR. BARBOUR

-----077095 131555Z /47

O 131535Z SEP 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 218661

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MARR, US, EG, IT

SUBJECT: MIG-MAINTENANCE AND THE CONGRESS

1. ROY ATHERTON IS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 14 BEFORE HAMILTON SUBCOMMITTEE RE SALE OF C-130'S AND OTHER NON-LETHAL ITEMS TO EGYPT. IT IS NOW ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THIS APPEARANCE WILL PRECIPITATE HARD QUESTIONS CONCERNING PLANS FOR MAINTENANCE OF EGYPTIAN MIG AIRCRAFT. (THERE HAS BEEN SOME PRESS SPECULATION WHICH WILL FUEL INTEREST.)

2. OUR OBJECTIVE OBVIOUSLY IS TO SATISFY LEGITIMATE CON-
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GRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RESPECTING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SENSITIVITIES OF ALL CONCERNED. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW, I HAVE DECIDED THAT ATHERTON SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN RESPONSES DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND THAT WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFINGS OF A MORE DETAILED NATURE WITH SELECT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

3. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST THAT YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH SADAT AND ANDREOTTI RESPECTIVELY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (OR, IF THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE, OTHER APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL OFFI-

CIAL IN EACH GOVERNMENT) TO EXPLAIN OUR PLANS FOR HANDLING THIS ISSUE. YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED SALE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT AND PILOTLESS RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES WILL BE HELD BY A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 14. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON WILL APPEAR ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

B. WE ARE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT, DURING COURSE OF HEARINGS, QUESTION OF MIG MAINTENANCE WILL ARISE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SATISFY LEGITIMATE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST WHILE GIVING DUE REGARD TO THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT.

C. IN OPEN SESSION, MR. ATHERTON WILL POINT OUT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EGYPT'S IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE WEST RESULTED IN NEED FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPLY. SOVIET UNION IS NO LONGER MAJOR SUPPLIER, AND FLOW OF SPARES ALSO REDUCED.

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D. A NUMBER OF THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE GOE'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING SOME OF EGYPT'S MAINTENANCE NEEDS, SPECIFICALLY TO INCLUDE THEIR MIG AIRCRAFT. U.S. PRIVATE INDUSTRY POSSESSES CERTAIN TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES IN MEETING EGYPT'S MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST FOR U.S. INDUSTRY TO SELL CERTAIN TECHNICAL SERVICES TO FIRMS IN THESE FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE MIG FLEET IN THE ABSENCE OF RENEWED SOVIET SUPPORT. SUCH MAINTENANCE SUPPORT WOULD NOT IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY ON THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE AREA.

E. WE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY DIRECT U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION OR AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE IN EGYPT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT. THIS IS A COMMERCIAL SALE OF U.S. TECHNICAL SERVICES WHICH WILL REQUIRE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF ANY TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT.

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ALONG LINES OF ATHERTON'S PROPOSED REMARKS. VANCE

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TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 218661

NODIS
FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT STATE 218661 SENT ACTION CAIRO & ROME DTD 13 SEP 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 218661

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APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
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O 150230Z SEP 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2544

S E C R E T STATE 218661

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FOL REPEAT STATE 218661 ACTION WHITE HOUSE DTD 13 SEP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850052-1989
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 8
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Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1289908
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIG MAINTENANCE AND THE CONGRESS
TAGS: MMOL, MARR, PGOV, EAID, US, EG, IT, (ATHERTON, ROY)
To: CAIRO ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eec77f47-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
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22 May 2009
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